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PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

Langley Porter, M.D. John Spencer, M.D.
Martin Fischer, M.D. Harry M. Sherman, M.D.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary State Society, - - - | 2210 Jackson Street,
State Journal, - - - - - | San Francisco.
Official Register, - - - - -

Telephone, West 5975.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Remember that the next meeting of the State Society is to be held at Coronado, April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. On Monday, April 20th, the Public Health Association will have its meeting, and we understand that this will be particularly attractive. Do not fail to go to the Coronado meeting. There is no more beautiful spot on the Pacific Coast. The hotel is comfortable and the table of the best. Special rates have been made, including meals, of \$3.00 per day for one in a room without bath; \$5.00 for two in a room without bath; \$1.00 per day additional for room with bath. The railroads will give the usual rates of one fare and a third for the round trip, on the receipt-certificate plan. The receipt-certificate must be obtained when the going ticket is purchased and must be signed by the secretary at the meeting; the full fare is paid going, and one-third fare on the return ticket. The program will be unusually good and will be so arranged that all may attend every session, and also have an opportunity to enjoy some of the many beauties of the ideal spot. It is especially important that every secretary of our county societies should attend this meeting. Do not fail to be there.

From the *Osteopath*, a journal published in the interest of that sect, in Los Angeles, we quote the following:

IS IT TO
LAUGH?

"The *Western Osteopath* for October, edited by Dr. W. W. Vanderburgh, publishes in full the last questions of the State Board of Medical Examiners of California. They are fair and reasonable questions, in which any well-educated graduate of Osteopathy should make a good showing. Dr. Dain L. Tasker, of the Board, was assigned and conducted the examination in Anatomy. Dr. Ernest C. Sisson conducted the examination in Chemistry; both with conspicuous fairness and ability."

Now just please, please, bear in mind that "*They are fair and reasonable questions, in which any well-educated graduate of Osteopathy should make a good showing,*" and then let your mind go back over the almost unending "kicks" which have come from candidates who could not pass, and from regular schools! Is it to laugh or is to weep and tearfully talk learnedly about total depravity?

Confronted with the fact that there are a good many very excellent papers written on subjects related to internal medicine, but which, either because they are too long or because they are too technical, or for some other reason are not well suited for publication in a general medical journal, such as the *Journal of the A. M. A.*, that Association has established a new periodical entitled *Archives of Internal Medicine*. The first number was issued in January. There are to be two volumes yearly, each of some 600 pages, and the subscription price is \$4.00 a year. The establishment of this new publication would seem to be a very wise move on the part of the Association, for it can thus present to those who are interested in the subject of internal medicine much matter that could not well be published in the *Journal A. M. A.*, already grown to a very large size. Furthermore, the Association is an organization of physicians for the benefit of physicians, and there is no good reason to be urged why the Association should not do everything in its power to aid its members and the physicians of the country generally. Our profession is supporting and making rich a good many private individuals and laymen through its productions. Why should we continue to do this when we may ourselves produce this material and issue it from our own printing establishment, giving to the physician the excess profit in the shape of a better publication at a less price? If the first number is a sample of what is to come, and we have no doubt of this, the *Archives of Internal Medicine* will be a most welcome addition to the medical literature of the United States; and, thank God; it is not full of nostrum advertisements! The editorial board governing

the *Archives* consists of Drs. Joseph L. Miller, Richard C. Cabot, David Edsall, George Dock, Theo. C. Janeway and W. S. Thayer. Checks, etc., should be made payable to the American Medical Association, 103 Dearborn avenue, Chicago.

On December 28th, a meeting of the Council of the State Society was called for the purpose of considering the presence of plague

THE PLAGUE SITUATION. in California and whether or not the State Society could do anything to aid in the fight against

it. After a full discussion, the Council authorized the President, Dr. George H. Evans, to appoint a special committee of five to aid the local society and to endeavor to secure the co-operation of the various civic and commercial bodies, which up to that time had done nothing in the work of fighting the infection. This committee called a meeting in the hall of the California Club on the evening of January 18th and invited the directors of all the commercial organizations, Mayor, Supervisors, etc., to attend. At first sight of the audience, doubtless the committee were discouraged, for only some sixty persons seemed to be sufficiently interested to attend. But, fortunately, there were quite a number of the Merchants' Association present, and the facts expounded before them at once aroused their deep interest. They arranged for and called a meeting of business men on January 28th, on the floor of the Merchants' Exchange, and some six hundred men attended. Existing facts were explained by Dr. Rupert Blue of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and others interested in the work, and both the Governor and the Mayor spoke in no uncertain terms of the dangers of the present situation and from the ignorance and apathy of the people. The necessity for the co-operation of the press was urged and resolutions to that effect were passed. These, coming from the merchants, who support the papers, had a very salutary effect and at last a modicum of publicity has been secured; even the poor *Examiner* stopped speaking in vague phrase of the presence of "contagion" in the city; it hated the word plague. At this meeting a committee of twenty-five, thirteen laymen and twelve physicians, was appointed by the Mayor to co-operate in the work and to stimulate public interest, etc. Up to the end of January, there has been no case of human plague in San Francisco for about a month, though the percentage of infected rats has risen steadily until it is over one and one-half per cent. This seems small until one remembers that even in severe epidemics the percentage of infected rats does not exceed six or seven per cent of those examined, and has been as low as two per cent. The Public Health and Marine Hospital Service laboratory is being enlarged and will soon be in a position to examine all rats obtained. Fleas are very scarce in the city, owing to the cold and rainy weather, and that accounts for the falling off of cases of human plague. With the return of warm weather—and fleas—we may expect to see an increase in the number of human cases.

In almost every state in the Union one or more publications, claiming to be published in the interests of the medical profession,

ABOUT JOURNALS. are issued at regular intervals; they are classed as "medical" periodicals and are supposed to represent

the interests of medical men. With the exception of the *Journal of the A. M. A.*, the various state association journals, and a few issued by county societies, all are published primarily for profit and are owned either by publishing houses, pharmaceutical manufacturers, or private physicians. In some instances the smaller journals are really published at a financial loss, but this is made up to the owner by the books which he receives for review and which naturally are favorably commented upon in his journal. One could very easily designate scores of journals of this class in which no "book review" giving an unfavorable opinion of a book, no matter how bad a work it may really be, has ever appeared. When periodicals are profitable, the profit comes not from the subscriptions but from the advertisements. Anything that is calculated to reduce the quantity of advertisements in such a publication may naturally be assumed to be objectionable to the proprietor, for he dislikes to have his income reduced. This is almost too simple to need the saying. When the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. was organized, probably 75 per cent of the advertisements in "medical" journals were of articles which had gained recognition by medical men on account of the mystery by which they had been surrounded by the skillful writer of the advertising matter relating to them. A few examples will suffice to illustrate this point. "Anarsarine" was written up as a *cure for dropsy*, though the things which composed it and which permitted it to *cure dropsy*, were carefully concealed from the physician. "Germiletum" was solemnly declared to be "a *specific* for catarrh," though how or why, we are not informed. Some things—notably the Lawrence line of nostrums—were, to accept the statements of the manufacturer, and these were the only statements available, capable of curing almost anything in a mysterious but most reliable manner. There were numerous mixtures of acetanilid, under fanciful names, such as antikamnia, phenalgine, sal-codeia, etc., which were said to be—by the manufacturers—*new* and most potently valuable chemical substances with merits only limited by the imagination of the "adsmith" or the extent of lie for which the manufacturer's conscience would stand. The investigations of the Council rent the veil of mystery and disclosed the fraudulent claims for composition or therapeutic marvelousness.

The *Journal of the A. M. A.*, and some of the state association journals, published these disclosures

AND OTHER JOURNALS. and resented the fact that they had been imposed upon and lied to; also, they refused to advertise the frauds, even though the money was "good" and promptly forthcoming. With